

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 010557

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10557 160344Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-14 SSC-01 CPR-02
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8425
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCLACG KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

SEOUL 10557

E.O. 120552 N/A
TAGS: PINT-POV PINS ECON KS US JA
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHOI RESIGNS

REF: SEOUL 10543 (NOTAL) R

1. (U) PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH (M-R: CH'OE KYU-HA) RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ROK AT 10:00 AUGUST 16. HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY ACTING PRIME MINISTER PARK CHOONG HOON (M-R: PAK CHUNG-HUN) UNTIL A PERMANENT SUCCESSOR CAN BE CHOSEN BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION. WE ARE PROVIDING THE FULL TEXTS OF PRESIDENT CHOI'S TELEVISED RESIGNATION STATEMENT, AND ACTING PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT OF TODAY, WHICH WAS RELEASED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECHES FOLLOW.

2. (U) PRESIDENT CHOI'S SPEECH:

PAGE 02 SEOUL 10557 160344Z

- --HE ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KWANGJU, DISTURBANCES.
- --THE SITUATION HAS NOW IMPROVED SUFFICIENTLY, WITH THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES, THE BEGINNING OF AN ECONOMIC UPTURN, AND MILITARY ACTION TO GET THE SECURITY SITUATION IN HAND, THAT HE IS

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363

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- FREE TO RESIGN.
- --CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROCEED.
- --SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE U.S. AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS SUCH AS JAPAN WILL CONTINUE.
- 3. (U) ACTING PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT:
 - --HE RESPECTS THE PATRIOTISM AND COURAGE OF CHOI'S DECISION.
 - --CONFUSION AND IRRESPONSIBLE AGITATION LAST SPRING MADE THE MAY 17 EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW INEVITABLE AND LED TO THE TRAGEDY OF KWANGJU.
 - --PROGRAMS UNDER THE RESOLUTE LEADERSHIP OF CHUN DOO-HWAN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) ARE ALREADY RESTORING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STABILITY.
 - --PARK'S FIRST PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT THE INTEREGNUM BETWEEN CHOI AND HIS PERMANENT SUCCESSOR IS AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE.

PAGE 03 SEUL 10557 160344Z

- (NO DATE FOR THE NCU VOTE WAS SET.)
- --ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT UNDER THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION IS THE CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE.
- 4. (LOU) COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT SPOKE IN CALM UNEMOTIONAL TONES. ONE FSN WHO SAW THE TV BROADCAST SAID THAT CHOI LOOKED "ALMOST HAPPY." MONJO

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